

FRIENDLY HILLS SCHOOL

"Where Learning Lives"



HAWK HEADLINER

Volume 6, Issue 1

September, 2003

THE PRINCIPAL'S PAGE: Welcome Back!

It is hard to believe, but the summer is gone and another school year is upon us. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself, discuss beginning of the year preparation, and the continuation of the success that is a Friendly Hills' tradition.

As most of you know, Mr. Blanding moved back to his and my home state, Michigan. My name is Heath Papp. I have been in education in California for the last seven years. Most recently, I have spent time teaching at CSUSB, coordinated state and federal projects, been a summer academy principal, and spent time doing staff development for both veteran and new teachers. Prior to that, I spent five years in the classroom working with students from kindergarten through junior high. I come to Friendly Hills with great appreciation for all that has been accomplished here over the last 15 years.

To continue this tradition of high academic achievement, I would like to remind everyone that beginning of the school year is a challenging time for students. Please, make sure that your son or daughter is well rested, well fed, and ready to be on time to school everyday. This may seem simple, but it will ensure that our teachers can utilize their talents to

make sure that your son or daughter is able to meet the State of California's challenging performance standards.



As you saw in your child's new Math series last year, and will see again in our new Language Arts series, today's children are being educated in an environment of extremely rigorous academic standards. Do not worry! With our school's and district's focus on standards based classrooms, research based instructional strategies, and the enormous amount of talent and enthusiasm with the staff at Friendly Hills, your child will be successful!

Friendly Hills is definitely a place *Where Learning Lives*. Over the next year, you may hear of exciting new challenges and opportunities at Friendly Hills. That is because learning is a dynamic process. Please, come in and involve yourself in this process. With the enormous amount of parent support, the wonderful students, and the dedicated staff at Friendly Hills, we will not only accomplish the goals set by the state, we will exceed them!

Inside this issue:

Principal's Page	1
Weekly Envelopes	2
FHEA (Parent Group)	3
School Forms	3
Bell Schedule	3
Homework Policy	4
Illness and Absences	4
Student/Parent Handbook	5
Library News	5
Site Based Management	6

Dates of Interest

- Labor Day Holiday 9/1
- FHEA Spaghetti Dinner and Back to School Night 9/18
- School Photos 9/19
- Awards Assemblies 10/2



Back-to-School Night and Dinner:

Please mark your calendars: Thursday, Sept. 18 from 7:00-8:00 p.m. will be our annual Back-to-School Night. Come and see your child's classroom.

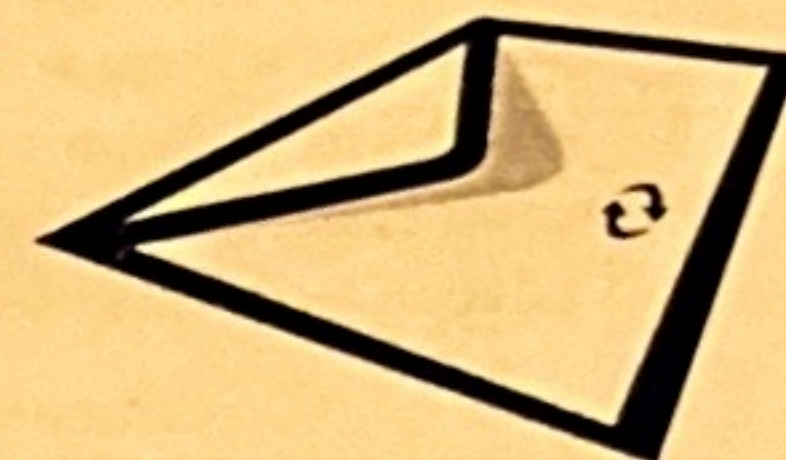
We will also have our annual FHEA spaghetti dinner that night from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.



WEEKLY ENVELOPES

We will continue to use the "Weekly Envelope" to communicate with you. This is a large manila envelope that will be sent home with your child once a week. It is a way for the teacher to communicate with you on a regular basis and will help you look for information on a certain day each week. Please take the time to check the Weekly Envelope, sign the outside and return

any items that the teacher or the school requires. There will be times when information cannot wait and we will send home a flyer, but for the most part, important information will be in the envelope. Most of your questions can be answered by the communication in this envelope, so please take the time to check it.



Phone Calls

Please call in
all absences
when your
child will not
be at school.

Please feel free to call the school if you have questions regarding your child's program. The school phone number is 366-3812 and our fax number is 366-1061. We cannot take a teacher away from instruction,

but you can always leave a message and the teacher will call you back as soon as possible. We do have an intercom system if we need to relay an emergency message to the classroom. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

FRIENDLY HILLS ELEMENTARY ASSOCIATION

We have a very active parent group at Friendly Hills called the F.H.E.A. (Friendly Hills Elementary Association) We hope you will consider joining this group of parents. There are many ways, big or small, that you can be of service to your child's school. They have provided wonderful support to the teachers and students at Friendly Hills. They hold regular meetings on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the school library. The next meeting will be Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2003 Information regard-

ing the membership drive and fund-raising activities will be sent home in the near future. Did you know that the parent group pays for all the field trips for your children?



FORMS, FORMS, FORMS

We are sending you several forms to fill out this first week of school. It is very important that you return these to school as soon as possible, especially the blue Family Record Card. We need current emergency information on your children, even if you pre-enrolled a child last spring or this summer. These forms include a yellow disaster preparedness card, student accident insurance (this

is an optional "mail-in" insurance), school lunch program form and menu, a parent-student handbook and probably a letter or note from your child's teacher. Please fill out a blue and yellow card for each child in your family. This may seem repetitive, however we use the cards in different places for different purposes. Don't forget there are two sides to these cards - please fill out both sides.

Bell Schedule: (School hours for 7-8 are 7:20-1:30 with grades 1-6 from 9:25-3:30)

Morning Break:

Grade 7-8	8:55-9:05
Grades 3-4	10:30-10:45
Grades 1-2	10:50-11:05

Lunch:

Grade 7-8	11:05-11:40
AM Kindergarten	11:15-11:40
Grades 5-6	11:30-12:05
PM Kindergarten	11:40-12:00

Grades 1-2	12:10-12:45
Grades 3-4	12:45-1:20

Afternoon Break:

Grades 5-6	1:35-1:55
Grades 1-2	2:05-2:20
Grade 3-4	2:25-2:35

Dismissal

Grade 7-8	1:30 p.m.
Regular	3:30 p.m.



Homework Policy:

All students in the Morongo Unified School District receive homework assignments. Students in grades K-3 will have approximately 30 minutes a day, and students in grades 4-6 will have approximately 60 minutes of homework. Grades 7 – 8 will generally have 90 minutes each night. Time will vary depending on the assignments given by individual teachers. The purpose of homework is to reinforce those skills learned during the day. If you find your child is having difficulty, please communicate with the teacher as soon as possible.

If your child is absent, you may request homework from the teacher by leaving a message at the office (a full day advance notice is required).



SUMMER VACATION IS A TIME WHEN PARENTS REALIZE THAT TEACHERS ARE GROSSLY UNDERPAID.

Student Illness and Medication:

If your child becomes seriously ill or injured at school, our office staff will call you if your child cannot return to class. Please make sure we have current information on the blue family card. If your child needs to take medication at school, even for a short term, a doctor's note is required. There is a



form in the office for your doctor to complete. Cough drops, vitamins, aspirin, lip balm or other non-prescription medicines are not allowed at school.

STUDENT ABSENCES:

Attendance in class is essential for a student's success in school. If your child is absent from school, you must either call the school to report the reason for the absence or send a note, on the day that your

child returns to school, explaining the reason for your child's absence. If your child will be absent for an extended period of time, please notify the teacher or the office as soon as possible. A physician's note may be required for chronic absences. We may call you at home to verify an absence.

Student/Parent Handbook:



The Friendly Hills Parent and Student Handbook has been revised. You should receive one with this packet of information. We hope you will find this information useful. Please read carefully the information on school visitors, school discipline, transportation and medications at school. Calendars and upcoming events are also included, so keep this handbook handy and refer to it often.

LIBRARY NEWS:

Mrs. Kovaleff (affectionately known to all as "Mrs. K.") and Paddington are gearing up for another great year in our school library. We are sure your students will enjoy working with Mrs. K. as they visit the library each week. They will have the opportunity to check out books and listen to the wonderful stories spun by our school librarian. We ask that students cover all textbooks to protect them. Parents are responsible for lost or damaged library books & textbooks.



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS



This informative newsletter has a wealth of information each month. Please take the time to peruse this forum, with your child, for important events and announcements. A great deal of time and effort go into making certain our families are informed. We promise to keep the information coming if you promise to keep reading.

FRIENDLY HILLS SCHOOL

7252 Sunny Vista Rd
Joshua Tree CA 92252

Phone: 760 - 366-3812
Fax: 760-366-1061
Email: heath_papp@morongo.k12.ca.us

Friendly Hills is dedicated to ensuring that students acquire the necessary skills to be high achievers, exemplary citizens and life long, self motivated learners.

Bookmark It!
Http:\\fhes.
morongousd.com
Our school web site

Our Story

Friendly Hills School was founded in 1988 as part of the Morongo Unified School District. Since it's inception, the school has been instrumental in the education of more than 4000 students. Our first kindergarten class graduated from high school in the year 2000. We are confident that that class, and all who will follow, leave this school with a strong well rounded education. Our tradition has been one of academic excellence, high student expectations and an education rich in the arts. As we move into the future, Friendly Hills continues to lead in these areas as well as emerging as an innovator in the area of technology. We attribute our success to a talented, dedicated staff, caring parents and wonderful students.

SCHOOL BASED MANAGEMENT COUNCIL NEWS

The School Based Management Council is a

Each year new parent members come onto our

School Based Management Council

If you would like the chance to be a part of

this group , please

contact Mr. Papp.

decision making body within the school.

This committee puts together a Site Based Plan each year that outlines how money for special programs will be spent. It is made up of an equal number of parents and staff.

At the last SBMC meeting before summer break, the council completed working on the School Based Coordinated Plan for the 2003-2004 school year.

There are many aspects and accountability issues in making certain that our school functions properly within School District and California State compliance. We are proud to say that Friendly Hills is doing an excellent job and we appreciate staff and parents who work diligently to make sure our students receive the best educational opportunities we can provide.

